

retrieving the third data of the purchaser, which is registered for every purchaser in the data providing system, based on the second data recorded in the purchaser rewritable record medium, when the purchase request of the first data is made by the purchaser;

performing an accounting operation for providing the purchaser with the first data when the third data which is retrieved, is matched with the third data which is recorded in the purchaser rewritable record medium;

recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the first data and the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished; and

registering in the data providing system the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished.

29. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 28, wherein:

the step of recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the first data and the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished, comprises recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the purchase information which includes an accounting information representing the accounting operation; and

the step of registering in the data providing system the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished comprises registering in the data providing system the purchase information which includes the accounting information representing the accounting operation.

30. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 29, wherein:

the step of recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the first data and the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished, comprises recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the accounting information which includes:

a deposited money amount information representing an amount of money which is deposited for purchasing the first data;

a paid money amount information representing an amount of money which is paid for purchasing the first data; and

a balance amount information representing a balance after the first data has been purchased; and

the step of registering in the data providing system the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished comprises registering in the data providing system the accounting information which includes the deposited money amount information, the paid money amount information, and the balance amount information.

31. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 28, wherein:

the step of recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the first data and the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished, comprises recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the purchase information which includes a data specification information specifying the first data for which the accounting operation is finished; and

the step of registering in the data providing system the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data comprises registering in the data providing system the purchase information which includes the data specification information specifying the first data for which the accounting operation is finished.

32. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 31, wherein the step of recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the first data and the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished, comprises recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the purchase information which includes a data specification information which includes:

a title information for representing a title of the first data;

a purchase price information for representing a purchase price of the first data;

and

a purchase date and time information for representing a date and time when

the first data is purchased; and

the step of registering in the data providing system the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished comprises registering in the data providing system the purchase information which includes the title information, the purchase price information and the purchase date and time information.

33. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 28, wherein:

the step of recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the first data and the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished, comprises recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the purchase information of the first data which includes:

an accounting information for representing the accounting operation; and

a data specification information for specifying the first data when the accounting operation is finished; and

the step of registering in the data providing system the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished comprises registering in the data providing system comprises the purchase information which includes the accounting information and the data specification information.

34. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 33,

wherein the step of retrieving the third data of the purchaser comprises retrieving at least one information from the accounting information and the data specification information,

and

the step of performing the accounting operation comprises performing the accounting operation when information retrieved by the step of retrieving the third data of the purchaser is matched with an information which corresponds to the retrieved information and is recorded in the purchaser rewritable record.

35. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 28, wherein:

the step of recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the first data and the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished, comprises recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the purchase information which includes:

a title information representing a title of the first data;

a purchase date and time information representing a date and time when the first data is purchased;

a deposited money amount information representing an amount of deposited money which is deposited for purchasing the first data;

a paid money amount information representing an amount of money which is paid for purchasing the first data; and

a balance amount information representing a balance after the first data has been purchased; and

the step of registering in the data providing system the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished comprises registering in the data providing system the purchase information which includes the title information, the purchase date and time information, the deposited money amount information, the paid money amount information, and the balance amount information.

36. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 28, wherein the step of performing the accounting operation comprises:

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determining, with a determination process, whether the purchaser meets a predetermined data purchase requirement or not, based on the second data; and

performing, with an accounting performing process, the accounting operation when it is determined by the determination process that the data purchase requirement is met.

37. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 36, wherein the step of determining, with a determination process, whether the purchaser meets a predetermined data purchase requirement or not, based on the second data further comprises representing, with a data purchase requirement, an age capable of purchasing the first data.

38. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 28, wherein: the step of recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium further comprises accumulating the third data in the purchaser rewritable record medium, and

the step of registering in the data providing system further comprises accumulating the third data in the data providing system every time the accounting operation is finished.

40. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 28, further comprising controlling the third data, which is registered in the data providing system, such that the purchaser cannot rewrite the third data.

41. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 28, further comprising using the purchaser rewritable record medium that is a record medium having only a recording function as a function.

43. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 28, further comprising registering, the third data, in the data delivery portion.

44. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 28, wherein the step of performing the accounting operation is performed by the data delivery portion.

45. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 44, wherein the step of retrieving the third data of the purchaser comprises:

transmitting, with a transmission process, the second data and the third data recordings in the purchaser rewritable record medium from the data intermediate portion to the data delivery portion via the communication line; and

retrieving, by the data delivery portion, via a retrieval process, the third data registered in the data delivery portion, based on the second data transmitted by the transmission process, and

wherein the step of performing the accounting operation comprises:

determining, by the data delivery portion, via a determination process, whether the third data transmitted by the transmission process is matched with the third data retrieved by the retrieval process or not; and

performing, by the data delivery portion, via an accounting performing process, the accounting operation when it is determined by the determination process that the matching is obtained.

46. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 28, further comprising registering the third data in the data intermediate portion.

47. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 28, wherein the steps of retrieving the third data and performing the accounting operation are performed by the data intermediate portion.

48. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 28, wherein the steps of retrieving, performing, recording and registering comprise using as the data intermediate portion, a data processing apparatus installed in a shop which sells the first data to the purchaser.

49. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 48, wherein:
the step of recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the first data comprises:

transmitting, via a transmission process, the first data from the data delivery portion to the data intermediate portion via the communication line every time when the accounting operation is finished; and

recording, by the data intermediate portion, via a record process, the first data which is transmitted by the transmission process and the third data relating to the first data, in the purchaser rewritable record medium every time when the accounting operation is finished; and

the step of registering in the data providing system comprises registering, by the data delivery portion, via a registering process, the third data relating to the first data for which the accounting operation is finished in the data delivery portion every time when the accounting operation is finished.

50. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 48, wherein:

the step of recording in the purchaser rewritable medium the first data comprises:

transmitting, via a transmission process, the first data from the data delivery portion to the data intermediate portion in advance; and

recording, by the data intermediate portion, via a recording process, the first data which is transmitted by the transmission process and for which the accounting operation is finished, and the third data relating to the first data in the purchaser record medium every time when the accounting operation is finished; and

the step of registering in the data providing system comprises registering, by the data delivery portion, via a registering process, the third data relating to the first data for which the accounting operation is finished, in the data delivery portion every time when the accounting operation is finished.

51. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 50, wherein the transmission process transmits the first data from the data delivery portion to the intermediate

portion by distributing a data record medium in which the first data is recorded, from the data delivery portion to the data intermediate portion, in advance.

52. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 48, wherein:

the step of recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the first data and the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished, comprises recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the purchase information which includes an accounting information representing the accounting operation, and the accounting information includes a deposited money amount information representing an amount of deposited money which is deposited for purchasing the first data, a paid money amount information representing an amount of money which is paid for purchasing the first data, a balance amount information indicating a balance after purchasing the first data, an accounting date and time information representing a date and time when the accounting operation is performed, and a shop information representing the data sale shop where a sale of the first data is performed, and

the step of registering in the data providing system the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished comprises registering in the data providing system the purchase information which includes the accounting information and the accounting information includes the deposited money amount information, the paid money amount information, the balance amount information, the accounting date and time information, and the shop information.

53. (Amended) The data proving method according to claim 48, wherein:

the step of recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the first data and the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished, comprises recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the purchase information which includes a data specification information specifying the purchased first data, and the data specification information includes a title information

representing a title of the first data, a purchase price information representing a purchase price of the first data, a shop information representing a shop in which the first data is purchased, a purchase date and time information representing a date and time when the first data is purchased, and an apparatus information representing the data processing apparatus which writes the first data, and

the step of registering in the data providing system the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished comprises registering in the data providing system the purchase information which includes a data specification information specifying the purchased first data, and the data specification information includes the title information, the purchase price information, the shop information, the purchase date and time information, and the apparatus information.

54. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 48, wherein:

the step of recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the first data and the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished, comprises recording in the purchaser rewritable record medium the purchase information which includes:

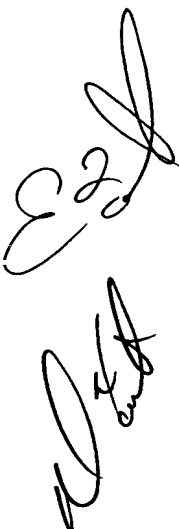
a title information representing a title of the first data;

a deposited money amount information representing an amount of deposited money which is deposited for purchasing the first data;

a paid money amount information representing an amount of paid money which is paid for purchasing the first data;

a balance amount information representing a balance after purchasing the first data;

a purchase date and time information representing a date and time when the first data is purchased;

 a shop information representing a shop in which the first data is purchased;

and

an apparatus information representing the data processing apparatus which writes the first data, and

the step of registering in the data providing system the third data for representing the purchase information of the first data, when the accounting operation is finished comprises registering in the data providing system the purchase information which includes the title information, the deposited money amount information, the paid money amount information, the balance amount information, the purchase date and time information, the shop information, and the apparatus information.

55. (Amended) The data providing method according to claim 28, further comprising using, as the data intermediate portion, a data processing apparatus installed in the purchasers side.

REMARKS

Claims 28-41 and 43-55 are pending. By this Amendment, Figure 8 has been added, the specification has been amended, claim 42 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and claims 28-38, 40, 41 and 43-55 have been amended. The claims have been amended solely to place the claims in better form and not to distinguish the claims from the applied references. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes a marked-up copy of each rewritten paragraph (37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii) and claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 42-55 are allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph and to include all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, it is noted